



Bouncing back
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Sports, Page 1B



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VOLUME 23, NUMBER 37

SUNDAY, MAY 9, 1999

FIFTY CENTS

NEWS AT A GLANCE

LOCAL CRIME STATISTICS 1997-8

Sheriff's Department	Source: Illinois State Police									
	Total Crime Index	Murder	Crim. Sexual Assault	Robbery	Agg. Assault & Battery	Burglary	Theft	Motor Veh. Theft	Arson	
1998 (%)	1800 -7	4 0	45 -2.2	20 53.8	110 -9.8	501 -18.5	988 1.2	127 -16.4	5 -58.3	12
1997 (%)	1836 6.9	0 0	46 6.9	13 4.2	122 4.9	615 7.6	976 8.5	152 4.6	18 0	12
Granite City	1854 6.9	0 0	31 6.9	23 4.2	117 4.9	339 7.6	1222 8.5	113 4.6	9 0	9
Pontoon Beach	305 0.3	0 0	8 40	4 33.3	12 62.5	55 0	206 11.2	26 -16.1	1 -100	0
Madison	498 2.7	0 -100	7 40	12 -50	46 100	113 2.7	261 -1.5	56 3.7	0 0	3
Venice	124 19.2	0 0	1 0	4 0	90 55.2	4 -63.6	13 18.2	12 -33.3	1 -100	1

Report: Overall crime up

But decreases posted in robbery, assault/battery

By Michael Heil
Staff writer

More crimes were reported in Granite City in 1998 than in 1997.

According to 1998 figures in the annual "Crime in Illinois" report released by Illinois State Police, 1,854 incidents were reported to Granite City Police in 1998, up 6.9 percent from the

1,734 documented in 1997. The largest increase, 8.5 percent, was in reported thefts, with 1,126 in 1997 and 1,222 in 1998. That's an increase of 8.5 percent.

The following crimes also showed an increase from 1997 to 1998:

Crimes against persons: 261 in 1997 to 31 in 1998, an increase of 6.8 percent.

Burglary: 315 in 1997 to 339 in 1998, up 7.6

See REPORT, Page 9A

Gov. Ryan pushes 'FIRST'

Gov. George H. Ryan announced Wednesday a new public works program that could bolster the local economy.

Ryan explained during a press conference the new \$1.2 billion public works program to rebuild and expand the state's transportationways, remove mass transit systems, repair and enlarge schools and meet the various needs of the state. The \$1.2 billion would be \$280 million to complete the Alton Bypass, which would take Illinois Route 14 from Interstate 255 to U.S. 67 in Godfrey.

"Illinois FIRST, which stands for Fund for Infrastructure, Roads, Schools, Transportation, had been unveiled by Ryan on Tuesday during a joint session of the General Assembly in Springfield.

CART driver crashes

A driver taking test laps at Gateway International Raceway in Madison was hospitalized after a collision. The driver, after a crash, Mark Blundell of England, a driver for the Motorola/CartWest/Mercedes/Reynard team, lost control of his car and hit the Turn 3 and "crashed hard" into the wall, said Gateway officials.

Blundell was taken to St. Elizabeth Medical Center and transferred to St. Louis University Hospital about 1 a.m. Wednesday.

Miller found guilty in attempted murder trial

Prosecutor plans to seek maximum sentence

By Curtiss A. Hartley
Staff writer

Still denying his guilt, convicted felon Michael F. Miller left a Madison County courtroom Thursday and returned to lockup.

Miller, 23, was found guilty of attempted first-degree murder in the beating and stabbing

attack on his cousin and sometimes girlfriend, Laverna

"Annie" Butkus, Aug. 2 under a Venice railroad bridge.

Butkus, who worked at the S&L Rub Club in Brooklyn, spent 21 days in a coma after the incident. Her mother, Ida Burnett of West Chester, Ohio, said Butkus still suffers from the traumatic brain injury due to a lack of oxygen.

Assistant State's Attorney Keith Jensen is expected to ask Associate Judge James

Hackett to impose a 60-year sentence.

"It's a Class X felony, so the range is six to 30 years unless it's accompanied by brutal and heinous activity," Jensen said.

Then the sentence could be doubled, he said.

"I like to open my mind and look at the sentencing report, but I think I'll ask for the maximum," he said.

Butkus, 23, was not present when the verdict was read, but her mother was. Upon hearing the verdict Burnett whispered, "Yes," and cried softly.

Miller's mother, Robin Miller of Fairview Heights, said there is a lot that did not see.

"Why didn't the cops find the tire print when (witness Josh Cook) told them that's what Mike used?" she asked. "And why couldn't

See TRIAL, Page 9A

Miller take the tire tool when (witness Josh Cook) told them that's what Mike used?" she asked. "And why couldn't

See TRIAL, Page 9A

Second child makes Mom's day

Chastain family welcomes Matthew

By Nicole Vaughn
Staff writer

This Mother's Day is a memorable one for Adrienne Chastain.

The Granite City resident doubled her standing as a mom last week. She gave birth to her second child Wednesday at Anderson Hospital in Maryville.

Matthew Charles Chastain was born at 9:15 a.m., weighing in at just under 7 pounds. Chastain and her husband, Charles, had an easier time bringing Matthew into the world than they did with his 20-month-old brother, Sam.

"I was two weeks overdue and they had to induce me with Sam," recalled Chastain, a secretary at Memorial Hospital in Belleville.

Sam also was a breach

Charles and Adrienne Chastain of Granite City with their two children, Sam, 28 months, and newborn Matthew Charles.

See MOTHER'S DAY, Page 9A

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Cindy Prezzier, Director of Weather Operations

KSDK-TV, NewsChannel 5 Weather Source Team



Granite City Journal

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From left, Josh Elmore, Ashley Barley and Jessica Hicks take part in ceremonies marking the 48th National Day of Prayer at Granite City Hall Thursday afternoon. Granite Citians joined people across the nation to pray for the spiritual renewal for the United States and the world. Pastors from four area churches participated, gave speeches and led the gathering in prayer.

Police Blotter

Granite City Police

DRUG CHARGES: A Madison man is facing drug and other charges after a brief car chase.

Dennis D. Latham, 26, of the 1700 block of Market, Madison, was charged with fleeing police and driving an uninsured vehicle. An additional charge of illegal possession of a controlled substance is pending lab results.

A second man, Abraham Thomas, 28, of the 400 block of Jefferson, Brooklyn, was charged with disobeying a lawful command of a police officer.

According to reports, a patrol officer spotted Latham driving a 1978 Chevrolet Impala in the 1700 block of Madison Avenue. The officer was on an outstanding warrant and attempted to pull the vehicle over. Latham allegedly tried to drive away but eventually stopped near Venice-Lincoln Technical Center.

At that point a passer-by, later identified as Thomas, got out of his car and fled.

Latham was placed under arrest, and a search revealed a pill bottle containing suspected crack cocaine.

Madison Police

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someone entered a bedroom and took a woman's ring valued at approximately \$500.

BURGLARY: A resident of the 5900 block of Sugarloaf Road, Collinsville, reported that sometime between 8:26 p.m. April 26 and noon April 27 someone broke into his garage and took a new riding mower, a 12-inch chain saw and a Weed Eater, with a total estimated value of \$8,000.

BURGLARY: A resident of the 2012 block of Fourth Street, Madison, reported that at approximately 9 p.m. April 26, someone forced the hood and driver's side door of his 1997 Ford Ranger pickup truck and took a St. Louis Blues hockey jersey, a pair of black jeans, an electric razor and a checkbook. An estimated value was not provided.

Granite Citians take part in National Prayer ceremonies

By Mike Heil
Staff writer

The ceremony held Thursday afternoon in the City Hall entrance resembled a church service as men, women, teenagers and children gathered to pray for America's rebirth.

They were taking part in the 48th National Day of Prayer celebration. This year's theme was "Light the Nation with Prayer."

More than 30,000 prayer services were held across the country as millions of Americans flocked to schools, churches and courthouses. The main congregation took place at the U.S. Capitol in Washington, D.C., where the National Day of Prayer Task Force gathered.

Locally, about 120 people met at City Hall. They

included civic leaders and officials from the police and fire departments.

"We're here as the Rev. Gary Motta of Bethesda United Methodist Church exclaimed that 'the country should return to its roots, which is faith in God and his works,'" Motta said.

Motta was one of four preachers who addressed the crowd. The Rev. Kevin Person of City Temple Assembly of God and Motta and exclaimed that abortion, pornography and gambling are evils of our society. Christians must pray for God's help, he said.

Paula Hubbard of Granite City said before the event that she was looking forward to it because it involved so many Christians. She sang two inspirational songs about God and country.

"There are people here from different denominations," she said. "They came to lift their

hearts and voices in accord with God, asking him for his blessings so that our nation can once again become more moral," she said.

Tina Mason, who read several Scripture passages, lives in Granite City but is a member of First Church of God in St. Louis. She said that "no matter how things appear, God is in control and will always be."

Granite City's National Day of Prayer festivities were attended by many young people, including students from Coolidge and Grigsby middle schools.

Coolidge student Crystal Williams said she joined with classmates Ashley Barley, 13, Jessica Hicks, 15, and Josh Elmore, 15, to "celebrate Jesus and pray so that the world can become a safer place for all people."

The service lasted about an hour.

■

Madison council approves name change

By Scott Cousins
Staff writer

The controversial renaming of Collings Avenue to Wayne Lanter Avenue was approved Tuesday by the Madison City Council.

MADISON council voted 6-1 to approve the action, with Alderman Roshelle Williams-Gardner casting the only no vote. Alderman Norris Horton, the most vocal opponent of the move, was absent.

The matter was passed without discussion.

Lanter was a Belleville businessman who built his company into a major player in the specialty warehousing and distribution business. He died Feb. 23.

1998. Renaming a street in his honor had been brought up before, but never acted on.

Two weeks ago, a motion to rename the street was tabled after a heated protest by Horton, who said Lanter "had not been seen by the city's black residents."

Some of the protest stemmed from disputes with neighbors over signs and road closings near Lanter who lived in Madison. Other problems related to what Horton had said were hiring and promotion practices in the company under Lanter Co.

The council last week met

as a committee to discuss and debate the issue, and gave tentative approval to renaming the street over the objections of Horton and Williams-Gardner.

The council also approved an ordinance placing fire hydrants at the intersection of Pontoon and Main Streets and at the entrance to Gateway National Golf Links.

An agreement to join the Madison County Local Emergency Planning Committee Hazardous Materials Response Team also was approved.

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Madison council turns bad trash bills over to collector

By Scott Cousins
Staff writer

The names of Madison property owners with unpaid garbage fees total more than \$90,000 will be turned over to collection agency.

During the City Council's meeting Tuesday, it approved hiring Transworld Systems Inc. to collect unpaid bills, many of which date back to when the city started collecting residents' garbage in 1993.

Mayor Jim Hamm said Friday that there are about 290 accounts he plans to hand over. Most bills are about \$250, but several — usually involving landlords with multiple properties — are "quite substantial."

Hamm said the city will pay the company \$8.15 for each account it collects and probably would change its trash collection ordinance to add the fee to the bills.

"Basic idea is to be out anything," he said. "If not, it will cost us about \$2,000 to collect \$90,000."

This is not the first time the city has gone after delinquent trash accounts. Several years ago, the city amassed about \$100,000 worth of unpaid fees, and placed them in property.

"A lot of people came in and it worked down in somewhat, but a lot of people don't pay attention to it," Hamm said.

The city charged \$9 per month or \$27 per quarter for trash service.

The council also approved having Fire Chief Mike Foley seek bids for a

"quick-response" fire truck for use in the city's tax increment financing district.

The truck would be a modified one-ton pickup and would carry water and dry chemicals.

Hamm said its primary use would be to put out grass fires in parking lots during race days at Gateway International Raceway.

Because it primarily would be used within the TIF district, the cost could be paid out of TIF funds.

Hamm also said that inspectors have been busy writing tickets for overgrown weeds and grass.

As of Tuesday, 90 such tickets had been written for grass and weeds more than a foot tall.

The council also approved an ordinance incorporating the city's G.I. Bill Act.

A letter from the Illinois Municipal League said the city had the choice of either having a state legislative ethics committee handle it or setting up its own local ethics committee.

The council approved using the state's committee, which the league recommended.

Council welcomes back Miller

By Mike Heil
Staff writer

The Granite City Council on Tuesday evening welcomed back former Second Ward Alderman Jim Miller.

GRANITE CITY, who previously served from 1987 to 1995, stood before the council meeting that he was glad to see so many familiar faces and was ready for the challenges they lie ahead.

There will be adjustments made, Miller said. "There will be different representation

than I experienced before, but it's still the same city."

Miller defeated David Partney in the April 13 election to take the Second Ward seat given up by Brian Fuzessery, who did not seek re-election.

Also on Tuesday were Aldermen Bob Page, First Ward; Robert Wofford, Fourth Ward; and Eddie Asadorian and Lurton Pulley, Fifth Ward. All were re-elected.

The seats held by Miller, Page, Wofford and Asadorian all have four-year terms; Pulley's term for two years. On other matters, the council passed resolutions for the

demolition or repair of property at 2132 Lee St., 2224 Lincoln Ave., 2729 Edwards St. and 2905 Benton St.

The council also approved ordinances to establish a handicapped parking space at 2905 Benton St., no-parking loading zone at 1905 Marion Ave. and to change zoning at 3061 Washington Ave. from R-1 residential to C-4 commercial.

At the April 13 meeting, aldermen unanimously approved \$457,513.83 for expenses in April and \$393,099.38 for payroll.

The council next meets May 18.

GCHS Student Council members collect funds for cancer research

By Mike Heil
Staff writer

Granite City High School students last month acted out of kindness when they spent a Sunday afternoon collecting money for the American Cancer Society.

After visiting homes through out Granite City for three

hours, they walked away with \$2,000 for the 15th Annual Residential Crusade for Cancer.

Students (at GCHS) have been doing this for years," said Jennifer Smidly, a visual studies teacher at GCHS and chairman of the American Cancer Society's Quad City unit. "It instills leadership qualities in students and develops character while they collect money for a good service cause."

Students gathered in teams to go door-to-door in their own neighborhoods. Participants included members of the National Honor Society, Student

Council and the Varsity Club. They not only collected money but also distributed pamphlets about cancer.

Student Council member Jennifer Smidly, 15, was one of three students to collect along Benton Street. Her team collected about \$100.

"It was a lot of fun for a good cause, and it was a good way to let people know how to prevent cancer," Jennifer said.

The Illinois Division of the American Cancer Society will celebrate Mother's Day with screening boards urge women to have mammogram exams.

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Public schools to benefit from plan

By Darryl Howlett
Staff writer

As part of Gov. George Ryan's proposed "Illinois FIRST" program announced last week, public schools would receive \$2.2 billion each year from the state's school fund.

The funding would add to the nearly \$600 million that public schools receive annually from the Illinois State Lottery. In question is the impact that the Lottery provides for public schools.

"This year, we provided close to \$600 million," Illinois State Lottery spokesman Mark Plohr said. "The entire budget for schools in the state is about \$14 billion. We transfer any profits into the common school fund. The General Assembly allocates the money. We have no control on the specific place the money goes."

Plohr said that since 1985, when the Lottery started providing schools with funding, the average annual allocation has been between \$500 million and \$700 million. "The profits used to go directly into the general

fund, but since August 1985, the profits have been going into a common school fund."

A breakdown of the \$14.2 billion to public schools includes \$8 billion from the state, \$8 billion from local taxes and \$1.4 billion from the federal government.

Under Ryan's plan, the \$2.2 billion allocation would expand the school construction fund program, which includes \$1 billion in state resources, combined with \$1 billion in matching funds from local school districts.

Ryan also is proposing \$125 million to be made available for "pay-as-you-go" projects in districts that can match the state's commitment.

State Rep. Gary Hannig, D-Gillespie, said Ryan's new program would benefit the state's school system. "The Lottery contributes a half-billion dollars to public schools," Hannig said. "It's a good contribution, but it's of small magnitude in comparison to what taxpayers pay, which is around \$8 billion. As far as that being part of the school construction plan, I approve of the \$2.2 billion. The schools need it."

Justus honored by bar group

St. Clair County Sheriff Mearl J. Justus is the 1999 recipient of the Law Enforcement Award of the Illinois State Bar Association.

The award was presented April 30 during the annual St. Clair County Bar Association Law Day Breakfast at Fischer's Restaurant in Belleville.

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Ryan proposal gets mixed reviews

Highway needs are there, but funding mechanism meets criticism

By Darryl Howlett
Staff writer

State and local politicians will proceed with caution on the possibility of raising annual motor vehicle registration fees for cars and light trucks as part of Gov. George Ryan's "Illinois FIRST" program.

Announced last week, the proposal would provide \$12 billion to rebuild and expand the state's roads and highways, renovate mass transit systems, repair and enlarge schools and meet the varied needs of local communities.

The program would be funded in several categories, including registration fees, liquor taxes and annual registration fees for owners of large trucks.

"I serve as chairman of the (House) Transportation Committee and obviously our area has great needs and projects that need to be addressed," said state Rep. Jay Hoffman, D-Alton. "I agree we have the needs, but the question is how do you fund it? We've held several hearings in the state, and at every hearing, (communities) had needs to be addressed — and soon."

"The proposal is \$12 billion;

"I agree we have the needs, but the question is how do you fund it? We've held several hearings in the state, and at every hearing, (communities) had needs to be addressed — and soon."

Rep. Jay Hoffman

you have to find a way to pay for it. I would like the increase an equitable increase with trucks," Hoffman said.

"I think we have an obligation to look at all of our funding sources, including looking at the issue of why commercial vehicle registrations (commercial trucks) go up 20 percent when they do more of the damage to the roads than cars, for which registration fees would double. We will try to find a way to do that."

State Rep. Steve Davis, D-Bethalto, said his office telephones were busy throughout the day as callers concerned about the increase in fees.

"Naturally, I think it's a huge increase and too much. I think there will be some negotiation (between the General Assembly and the governor). I don't think that

will be the final figures," he said.

"There's been talk among members about lowering the motor vehicle fees and raising the trucking fees."

"The first thing is a long way from being finalized," Davis said. "I can understand people's concern, especially senior citizens and low-income residents."

"I think the motor vehicle registration fees, which include a sliding scale.

In Iowa, for example, a person buying a 1999 four-door, four-cylinder Dodge Stratus would pay \$184 the first five years. In the sixth year, the owner would pay \$126; the seventh and eighth years, \$86; and the ninth year, \$43.

Factors in Iowa and other states concerning fees include car, weight, and in the case of Iowa, paying 40 cents per

hundred pounds of the vehicle, plus 1 percent of manufacturer's list price.

Doris Barnes, administrative assistant in Hartford, said citizens are concerned about the increase in fees.

"I would suspect that (residents) would not be very happy about the increases. We have a lot of senior citizens in our community, and that's our concern."

Alton Mayor Don Sandridge said residents should not think about the increase in registration fees but instead should look forward to more economic development for the Alton area.

Several area residents disagreed with Sandridge's logic.

"I already pay enough on my taxes; maybe the state needs to re-budget their money," said Wendy Voigt, 21, of Bethalto. "I'd rather give up my car than pay \$96. I'd rather drive around the roadways they want to fix to protest."

"I don't like that (increase proposal). That's way too much," said Mark Davis, 30, of Bethalto. "I can see that big of an increase is if politicians are voting themselves a raise," said Steve Grady of Granite City, an owner of two cars.

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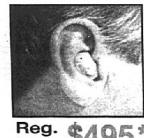
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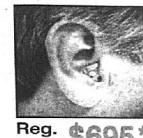
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Fire at hotel building site gets ATF attention

By Sanford J. Schmidt
Staff writer

More than a dozen
blitzed ATF agents and a
search dog combed the
charred rubble of a hotel
building site in Troy
Wednesday looking for clues to
a possible arson.

Some members of the team
supervised by the U.S. Bureau
of Alcohol, Tobacco and
Firearms, said the
investigation may take two

days.

He said the dog was trained
in sniffing substances used to
accelerate flames but that the
team is not ruling anything out
or in as far as its
investigation.

The fire early Tuesday
destroyed the Red Roof Inn
under construction in the 2000
block of North Formosa Road,
near Interstate 55/70 and
Illinois 162.

"We turned around and saw
flames shooting 20 feet in the

air. By the time we called 911,
we heard the sirens," said
Carol Anderson, a waitress at
nearby Randy's Restaurant.

"It was gone," she said.

Firefighters from the Troy
Fire Department stood by as
the rubble continued to
smolder Wednesday morning.

Wilson said the investigators
carefully combed the area,
starting from the outside
perimeter and working their
way into the center.

He said investigators from

all over the Midwest met at
the fire scene. The team is
working with the Illinois State
Fire Marshal's Office to
determine the cause of the fire.

Investigators using a truck
full of cameras and other
equipment will report to the
fire marshal and local police
after their investigation,

Wilson said.

The adjacent Ramada Inn
Limited under construction a

few yards away was singed by
the blaze. Troy Fire Chief
James Hampton previously
termed the fire at the Red
Roof "suspicious" because the
building was under
construction.

A similar fire destroyed a
Ramada Inn Limited under
construction at the same site in
1997. No charges ever
were filed in connection with
that fire, and it remains under
investigation.

Milestones

Dave Mueller celebrates a
birthday today, May 9.

Ashley Krawiecki celebrates
a birthday today, May 9.

Linda Meglis celebrates
a birthday today, May 9.

Arthur Theis celebrates a
birthday today, May 9.

Mark and Gayle Hillman
celebrate their wedding
anniversary today, May 9.

Dr. Robert Blankenship
celebrates a birthday May 10.

Dorothy Bridick celebrates
a birthday May 10.

Jeanne Weidner celebrates
a birthday May 10.

Jason and Carla Jackson
celebrate their wedding
anniversary May 10.

Dave "Slinky" Davis cele-
brates a birthday May 11.

Clarence Ames Smith cele-
brates a birthday May 11.

Kay Dove celebrates
a birthday May 11.

Amber Nelson celebrates
a birthday May 11.

Jennifer Schouley cele-
brates a birthday May 11.

Emily Modrusic cele-
brates a birthday May 11.

Joey R. Johnson cele-
brates a birthday May 12.

Paul McEntire cele-
brates a birthday May 12.

Mari Papp celebrates
a birthday May 12.

Cindy (Myatt) Doerr cele-
brates a birthday May 12.

Clyde Walker celebrates
a birthday May 13.

JoAnne Arnold cele-
brates a birthday May 13.

Tim and Norma McKe-
celebrates their anniversary
May 13.

Rachel Elizabeth Park cele-
brates a birthday May 14.

Josephine Anthony
Dorghazi cele-
brates a birthday May 14.

Charlotte Sutton cele-
brates a birthday May 14.

Neil Riedel cele-
brates a birthday May 15.

"Dottie" Caffrey cele-
brates a birthday May 15.

Michael MacAllister cele-
brates a birthday May 15.

Michelle MacAllister cele-
brates a birthday May 15.

Janice Turner cele-
brates a birthday May 15.

Shirley Robinson cele-
brates a birthday May 15.

Tammy Lynn Turner cele-
brates a birthday May 15.

Don and Pat Durbore
celebrate their weddi-
ng anniversary May 15.

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te City, Ill. 62040.

Please notify the paper
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- All sold as is and all sales final.
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\$999 "18TH CENTURY"
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Mini Grand Prix
set for May 22

The Arthritis Foundation will
conduct this year's Mini Grand
Prix in conjunction with Creve
Coeur Days.

The races will take place
at the Monsanto Solutia campus
boulevards in Creve Coeur.

The Mini Grand Prix is to run
from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. May 22.

Spots for the year's event
will be at KSDK-TV (Channel
5), the Suburban Journals,
Gateway Pontiac, Saturn of St.
Louis, the Sport Car Club of
America and Show World
Promotions.

Creve Coeur Days will run
May 20 through May 23.

Sport World Promotions
again will have a car show
featuring more than 150 classic
cars, antique vehicles and hot
rods. The show will be on the
east lot, and Creve Coeur Days
will be west of the Mini Grand
Prix.

Committee members of the
Grand Prix and Creve Coeur
Days have been meeting for
the past six months to
coordinate activities and also have
worked with the Creve Coeur
Police Department and police
chief, Capt. Dan Fuzz.

Chairman of the Grand
Prix, Robert Pass and Dan
Fuzz, have brought in more
than 33 cars this year,
compared to 31 cars last
year when the races was in
downtown St. Louis.

MasterCard International took
the first-place trophy in 1998
and will be represented again
this year.

People interested in
volunteering in the pits or for
crowd control at the event
should call 656-6233.

The mission of the
foundation is to support
research to find a cure for and
the prevention of arthritis, and
to improve the quality of life
for those affected by arthritis.

This year's event is expected
to raise more than \$150,000 for
the eastern Missouri chapter of
the foundation.

Letters to the Editor

East Side Publications, Attn. Letters,

1815 Delmar, Granite City, Ill. 62040



Opinions



Sound Off

Speak your mind, 618/277-9520

Letters to the editor

Seat belts crucial for everyone

TO THE EDITOR:
Each year, dozens of children die on Illinois roadways simply because they were not wearing seat belts. Car crashes are the leading cause of death to children. Even states that passed mandatory seat belt laws for children, yet six out of 10 children killed in auto-wrecks are unbelted. Illinois children will continue to die on our roadways, until the current state law is changed. The evidence is clear: Drivers who unbuckle up, do not buckle up children. A recent study published by the medical journal "Pediatrics" found that driver belt use is the most protective of child restraint use. When drivers use seat belts, children are three times more likely to be buckled.

Primary enforcement seat belt laws allow police to stop and ticket drivers for not wearing a seat belt, just like any other traffic violation. Currently, 31 states and the District of Columbia have enacted primary enforcement laws. The remaining 36 states allow police to ticket drivers for failure to wear seat belts only after they have been stopped for another traffic violation.

States that have enacted primary enforcement laws have much higher rates of seat belt use. When a primary enforcement law is passed, child seat belt use in that state increased from 45 percent to 52 percent in just two years. The passage of a primary enforcement law in Illinois is projected to save 210 lives and prevent 6,816 injuries and save \$45 million each year.

These hard statistics persuade most of our neighbors, Indiana and Iowa, to pass prudent, primary enforcement seat belt laws. Our neighbors work. They reduce traffic fatalities in general, and more specifically, they save the lives of thousands of children each year.

Those who claim primary enforcement laws deprive motorists of their "personal freedom" should consider the children who die in car crashes every day as a result of their parents' willingness to invoke that "personal freedom."

MICHAEL J. MADIGAN
Speaker of the Illinois House

School uniforms, closed campuses a good idea

TO THE EDITOR:
First, make school safety a national priority over the Balkans.

Second, it's time for school uniforms and metal detectors.

Third, it's time for parents to be significantly involved and supportive of their local schools.

Fourth, it's time — after due process and conviction — to execute shooters ages 14 and older who randomly murder students on a school campus. The public need to know that their actions can be fatal — to them.

Fifth, it's time for law enforcement and school leaders to support a school resource officer in the middle schools and high schools throughout the United States.

Sixth, it's time to post the Ten Commandments and bring school prayer back.

Seven, it's time for law enforcement and school authorities to have the right to share all relevant information on a "need-to-know basis." To heck with unbridled juvenile confidentiality.

J.W. "SKIP" BENNETT
Director
Southwestern Illinois
Law Enforcement
Commission

No one gains when freedom is repressed

TO THE EDITOR:
Charlton Heston raised such a ruckus in his Harvard speech. We should have recognized the serious state at which we had arrived when someone was fired for using the term "nigga." I, too, as I learned "Eenie meenie meenie mo, catch a niggard by the toe" when we were children. The crux of that saying is that you have missed by making him pay money. That saying ranked popularly high, as did some of Aesop's fables. It is a parable.

Several years back, Ben Edwards of A.G. Edwards Co. was criticized for using the term "nigga" in a speech. The fact that vanilla is a flavor coming from a black bean and not a color meant nothing to those causing an uproar.

How can we promote a good, sound and excellent education when the well-educated just submit to the knowledge of the illiterates among us? Heston also reminds us that no one gains in their freedoms or freedom of speech when others are repressed in this manner.

HELEN LOUISE
HERNDON
South St. Louis

MIKE
CHAMBER
5/19-1A

TO THE EDITOR:
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HELEN LOUISE
HERNDON
South St. Louis

Politicians, as a class, are a lot like dogs. They like to leave marks all over their territory.

But instead of doo-doo, most politicians prefer to plop something more concrete onto the terrain. They like to leave nothing more than to drive down a highway that was widened and repaved because of their efforts or tour a new water system that was finished through the appropriations process.

That's not a bad thing. It's good to have a breed of humans around that derives pleasure from making sure public funds are allocated to repair and construct roads, bridges, sewers, mass transportation lines and schools. Of course, there are those who do far better than themselves. But sometimes they are always going too far in one thing or another, so it's to be expected.

In Springfield right now all that's on the table is a massive public works program dreamed up by Gov. George Ryan. Billions and billions of dollars will be spent on the state's infrastructure over the next five years. It will be the largest spending plan this century — dwarfing Gov. Jim Thompson's "Build Illinois" program from 1993, which at the time was considered to be enormous.

Illinois has a long history of big-time construction



Will public back Ryan's proposal?

Politicians try to gauge opinion on massive public works plan



Rich Miller

programs. Way back in the mid 1800s, state Rep. Abraham Lincoln of Springfield helped muscle through a massive and expensive infrastructure program financed with lots of debt. The project was widely popular amongst the populace and some historians call it the "Aesop's fables" of the 19th century.

These days, Wall Street likes to see an accountable and dependable revenue stream before a borrowing government can get any money. So a project the size of Gov. Ryan's can't rely on virgin territory for growing tax collections. It has to include some tax and fee increase.

And there's the rub. "Tax increase" is about the worst nightmare in politics. After 25 years of vocal public dissatisfaction over taxes, there aren't many tax-lovers left in government. Not to mention, Republicans and Democrats alike, are gun-shy about raising taxes and fees. But do they need to

be? Back in 1988, Gov. Thompson raised just about every tax and there was. The recession in 50 years had starved his budget of revenue at the same time that social spending was on the increase. Even though Thompson had promised over and over not to raise taxes during his campaign — which he very well may have violated in 1994 (although that was the year the LaRouche fanatics crippled the Democratic Party by winning two statewide primary races). None of the state's legislators were won along Thompson lost his races in 1994 because of the tax issue. And, remember, 1984 was the Ronald Reagan landslide at the high point of conservatism.

Last year, legislative Republicans and Democrats both tried to use the tax issue to knock the other party out of power. In the spring, they voted for Gov. Jim Edgar's proposed income tax hike to fund education, while Republicans mostly voted against it. The bill died in the Senate. A few months later, the Republicans voted for several tax fee increases to fund schools. Lots of Democrats voted against that bill, too, but it became law.

So both sides tried to put the other as tax-loving child haters. Both sides had voted for tax haters. Both sides had voted for tax hikers.

And "against" schools. They spent millions trashing each other, but in the end, voters in Illinois lost a legislative race last year.

Rep. Kevin McCarthy (D-O'Orland Park) was considered the most vulnerable incumbent in the House last fall. When McCarthy announced that he opposed Edgar's income tax increase because it wasn't big enough, the Republicans grinned from ear to ear, and they spent a fortune against him. McCarthy won big.

Most of us realize that our infrastructure is starting to crumble. And while we'd rather get it fixed, we may reluctantly agree to pay a few bucks more a year.

Then again, voters have proven over and over that they can be unpredictable and unpredictable measures of the General Assembly will probably spend several sleepless nights worrying whether Gov. Ryan's tax increase ring is connected to a hidden electrical outlet. If history is any guide, they'll vote for the projects and live to tell the story. And it will be great fun to watch them squirm in the meantime.

(Rich Miller is an independent journalist who covers government issues for the Illinois Press Association).

Policy on letters to the editor

The Journal encourages its readership to voice their opinions on current issues by writing a letter to the editor. Letters must be no more than 350 words and include your name and city.

Also include your telephone number, which will be used to confirm authorship and will not be printed.

Letters must be received for clarity and space limitations. We will attempt to publish letters in the order we receive them. We will not publish any letter we deem libelous or defamatory.

Send your letters to: Journals of Southern Illinois, 219 N. Illinois, Belleville, 62220.

Illinois has a long history of big-time construction

creates a similar economic development package that would allow Illinois to compete with our neighboring states. Businesses that choose to locate in Illinois and create at least 100 new jobs will be eligible for the incentive package. This opportunity is good for businesses seeking to locate in Illinois and it will help bring jobs to communities in Illinois.

If you are interested in finding out more about the hearings or the proposed legislation, please feel free to contact me.

My Collinsville office is located at 126 Vandalia, Suite 1 and can be reached at 345-2176.

Collinsville office hours are from 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. weekday. We are also open from 5:30 to 7 p.m. Wednesdays and from 9 a.m. to noon Saturdays.

Our Edwardsville office is located in the Hines-Mallory Community Building at 216 Crane.

Edwardsville office hours are held from 12:30 to 4:30 p.m. Saturdays.

Please feel free to contact our office if we can be of assistance on any state matter.

Jay Hoffman, D-Collinsville, is a state representative from the 111th District.

Infrastructure keeps us competitive

Incentive packages also puts Illinois on a level playing field

By Jay Hoffman

The Metro-East area has enjoyed a great deal of growth over the past decade. Economic growth requires attention and planning.

There are things we need to do now to attract new businesses and spur economic growth.

Infrastructure is perhaps the most important concern for businesses. In order for manufacturing businesses to succeed, they must have easy access to major highways so they can transport their product to consumers across the country.

In order for service or retail businesses to succeed, consumers need easy access. For these reasons, our roads, bridges and infrastructure must be safe and reliable.

As the chairman of the Illinois House Transportation Committee, I have been conducting hearings throughout the state to determine the infrastructure needs of Illinois.

At the final hearing, the committee will present Gov. George Ryan a comprehensive list of Illinois' transportation and infrastructure needs.

It is hoped the Governor will then, in cooperation with the General Assembly, create the funding within the state budget for those projects so that industry can

continue to grow.

Another important aspect of the economic development equation is offering incentive opportunities. Illinois has to stay informed of what our border states are doing.

To remain competitive with other states, we must consider offering business incentives to locate in Illinois.

Currently, Missouri, Indiana and Kentucky all have implemented economic development packages that reward businesses that bring jobs to their states.

In an attempt to level the playing field, I am co-sponsoring legislation that

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CAC

On this special day, mothers deserve our special thanks

I keep them hidden in a dresser drawer. Even now, as I reach for them, tears begin to swell in my eyes. There is a lump in my throat and my heart beats faster.

The letters now are quite faded, the envelopes worn, but her handwriting is as vibrant and alive as if she was with me here today. My mother sent me letters every day that long-ago summer as I vacationed with my friends and my family in California.

"Ellen's mom called me and said you arrived OK," my mother wrote. "I was a nervous wreck all day. I kept thinking, 'Catherine is up there flying and I am missing her already.'

Mom wrote to me about the weather and that the family did not dare to go to the beach in detail. Her letter ended with "You take care, have a good

time and see a lot. I miss you very much. I love you, Mom."

The next day another letter arrived. "We made it and it is so quiet here," she wrote and continued telling me about all the family news. "I can't wait to talk to you. Everyone sends their love and have a wonderful time. Be good. I love you, Mom."

More letters arrived and at last it was time for me to come home. In her last letter she wrote, "I will write today. I hope you had a good trip. I can't wait to see you. I missed you, I love you, Mom."

I read between the lines and remember the countless sacrifices she made for me and my happiness. A true mother's love — how rare, how sacred. Perhaps I never really understood it till now. I guess I never fully comprehended the depths of a mother's genuine



Catherine Galasso

love until today as I hold my own precious daughter.

My mother's face was the first one that I recognized, her calming voice told me bedtime stories and her arms were the ones that rocked me to sleep. Though years have passed, I still see her and I will never forget.

This is a very special Mother's Day for me, my first as a new mother. A time to reflect on days past and an opportunity to look to the future with renewed purpose.

Through adversity, mistakes and successes, I have learned the worth of many things that are real, just and true. Of all that I've experienced, I thank God and count one of my greatest treasures to be the memories of my dear mother.

A good mother is a dream come true for a child. A mother's love, loyalty and deep caring gives us a strong foundation for a contented and secure life. I believe every great man or woman there is a great mother, for greatness is formed from the cradle.

Let us give tribute to the mothers who have cared and

shared the jewels of life's greatest character and brought up their children to know and serve God. We honor you and the valuable contributions that you make.

A mother's job is a difficult one with joys beyond compare. Mothers offer exhilaration, enthusiasm, appreciation and the most precious moments a child can know. A sweet smile of welcome, the house so neat and tidy, the freshly laundered clothes folded in your drawer, the lovely flowers on the table, the smell of something yummy cooking — what warmth a good mother adds to a home!

I paraphrased a quote that goes, "The father makes life worth living." So important are mothers.

Though we grow from childhood, we never

outgrow the need for someone special to comfort us, to stroke our hair gently, dry our tears... and to reassure us that everything will be all right.

I read a recent letter my mother wrote to me. I recall her tender words. And when our sweet little Lauren Grace awakens from her nap, I say to her gently, "I hope you had a good nap, I couldn't wait to see you, I missed you. I love you."

The circle of life keeps flowing with the love of God and the wonderful joys of motherhood.

God bless you, dear mothers. Catherine Galasso is a free-lance columnist for the *St. Louis Journal*. You may write to her at Suburban Journals, 1714 Deer Tracks Trail, St. Louis, 63131, or by e-mail at westnews@primary.net.

Park District sponsoring one-day trip June 17

The Granite City Park District will sponsor a one-day trip to St. Louis and St. Charles counties Thursday, June 17. The cost of the trip will be \$30 per person and will include lunch.

The trip will go on sale at 8 a.m. Wednesday at the Wilson Park Ice Rink.

The buscoach will leave the ice rink at 8:30 a.m. the day of the trip and travel to Wildwood to Gilberg's Perennial Farm. Cindy Gilberg will be giving a tour of the farm that specializes in perennial plants and ponds. After the tour, there will be time to browse. Any plants purchased will be at

discounted prices.

Lunch will be at Piccadilly's Cafeteria on Olive Blvd. in Creve Coeur, where each person will be able to choose the complete "Dilly" selection that includes entree, salad, two vegetables, drink and dessert.

After lunch, the group will travel to the Sophie's Butterfly, Gift and Education Center. The center features an 8,000-square-foot glass conservatory, where visitors can mingle with more than 60 species of butterflies from around the world in free flight. The gift shop is filled with butterfly-inspired merchandise, and even the path leading to the building features

butterfly-shaped paving stones. The center is only the ninth such facility in the United States and is the only one in the Midwest.

As always, residents of the

Park District will have priority, with non-residents being placed on a waiting list and notified a week later of availability.

NEW OWNER

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Bring coupon for
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Men	\$10	Perms	\$35 & up
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Join us for some Healthy Conversation

Healthy Conversation provides an opportunity for you to talk with medical specialists about health and wellness issues that affect you and your family.

Dr. Harvey Mirly of Belleville Orthopedic Surgeons, a board-certified, fellowship-trained orthopedic surgeon, specializing in hand and upper extremity surgery, will discuss.

Arthritic conditions, carpal tunnel and other overuse syndromes of the shoulder, elbow and hand.

DATE, TIME, PLACE:

Wednesday, May 19
7 to 8:30 p.m.

Memorial Hospital
Auditorium

Attendance is limited.
Advance registration is required; reservations can be made by calling Memorial's Community Relations Department at 257-5649.



MEMORIAL HOSPITAL
4500 Memorial Drive
Belleville, Illinois 62226

May Sale

Indoor - All Month
Outdoor - 14th & 15th
(In case of rain 21st & 22nd)



Stock Up Now!
• All paper goods
• Holiday Bar-B-Q's
• Boxes & Boxes of Flowers
• Table covering
• **"EVERYTHING"**

2445 Pontoon Rd. 931-0868
Mon. - Sat. 9-3

"Here's Important Information On Medicare Coverage." — *June Kuef*

I'd like to tell you why PremierPlus by Mercy Health Plans is Medicare coverage that makes sense. Their doctors, hospitals and administrators work together as a team, so everyone is on the same side of the health care equation...your side.

And it's the only Medicare plan backed by the Sisters of Mercy, who have delivered quality health care to St. Louis area families for the past 150 years.

You'll feel good knowing you have health plan with:

- Preventive care
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Where else can you get a plan like this that's backed by the Sisters of Mercy? It's only from Mercy Health Plans.

For more information, call PremierPlus at (314) 214-8050 or 1-800-315-8682 and I'll send you a more detailed look at this plan. After all, don't you want Medicare Coverage That's On Your Side?

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Call to reserve your place for our no-obligation seminars.

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MAY 11 Tuesday 10:00 a.m. St. Louis Senior Center 5602 Arsenal St. Louis	MAY 13 Thursday 10:00 p.m. Alexian Brothers Medical Stop 2900 Lemay Ferry Rd. St. Louis	MAY 19 Wednesday 10:00 a.m. St. Mary's Hospital West Pavilion Auditorium 1027 Bellevue Ave. • St. Louis
MAY 20 Thursday 10:00 p.m. Alexian Brothers Medical Stop 2900 Lemay Ferry Rd. St. Louis	MAY 20 Thursday 2:00 p.m. DePaul Hospital May Education Center • Room A 12303 DePaul Dr. • Bridgeton	MAY 27 Thursday 10:00 a.m. Arnold Urgent Care Center 3619 Richardson Square Dr. Arnold

Refreshments will be served.

PremierPlus is available to persons entitled to Medicare Part A and enrolled in Part B by age or disability living in Lincoln, Warren, St. Charles, St. Louis City, St. Louis, Franklin and Jefferson counties in Missouri or Jersey, Madison, St. Clair, Monroe and Randolph counties in Illinois. You must continue to pay your Medicare Part B premium. If you should choose to enroll in the high option plan you will pay an additional premium of \$29.95 per month. Some limitations, restrictions and/or copayments apply. As with many health plans, neither Medicare nor PremierPlus will cover services from non-plan providers, except for emergency or urgently needed care. PremierPlus is a product of Mercy Health Plans of Missouri, Inc. which does business as Premier Health Plans in Southwest Missouri and has a contract with the Health Care Financing Administration to offer a Medicare+Choice Managed Care Plan.

SIUE building boom ending; officials say best yet to come

By Sanford J. Schmidt
Staff writer

Southern Illinois University at Edwardsville is in the beginning of the end of a small construction boom, and officials are excited about it.

"We've done a lot of planning to see the new building rising out of the ground," said Harlan Bengston, director of SIUE's Engineering School.

"Research now is spread out over several locations, including leased space at University Park."

"We're the farthest from the campus core," Bengston said.

He said the wait for the new engineering building has been long and arduous, with many delays caused by state politics.

The building will bring all the classes into one place, closer to all the other academic buildings on campus.

The school is in the midst of buying new equipment for the building, he said.

There will be computerized classrooms, open computer labs, specialized computer labs and a robotics lab.

The facilities will house a wind tunnel and a \$300,000 machine for engineering testing.

The engineering building is rapidly becoming more visible as huge steel beams

"We've done a lot of planning, and we're very excited to see the new building rising out of the ground."

Harlan Bengston
SIUE Engineering School dean

are being placed in a grid above the foundation.

"The project is being managed by the Illinois Capital Management Board, which paid for it."

Construction began in summer 1998, and completion is scheduled for fall.

That project is about the biggest in terms of cost, but a \$15.9 million remodeling project at Cougar Lake Apartments will begin this summer and continue into next summer, said Ken Neher, the vice chancellor for administrative affairs.

The funds for the apartments comes from revenue bonds, which will be retired with revenue from the apartments.

The university plans to install electrical service, plumbing, ventilation and general maintenance.

About 1,700 students live at Cougar Lake. The apartments are generally 90 percent occupied.

A smaller but notable project is virtually complete, Neher said.

A \$300,000 building for storage and museum offices is ready for occupancy.

Some works of art and natural history artifacts will be moved from the Wagner Center to the Edwardsville Learning area to the new building near support services on campus by the end of June, Neher said.

"From an administrative perspective, it will be much better to have all my store consolidated into one spot," museum director Eric Barnett said.

He said the museum has displays all over campus but that he dreams of one day having a free-standing museum for displays organized around a coherent theme.

"That is something to be wished for," Barnett said.

Neher said money will have to come from donations because the Illinois

Legislature is unlikely to fund such a project.

Work is progressing in on finishing an addition to the Student Fitness Center. The addition should house free weight-lifting equipment, and the area will be occupied by free weights will be occupied by aerobic equipment, which is becoming more popular among students and fitness center members.

An engineering firm recently was on campus taking soil samples from the Delmarva Trail, which is the first step in construction of a new bike trail along Bluff Road from the existing trail up to New Roag Road. Construction is expected to begin this summer.

The funding comes from a \$100,000 state grant to the Delmarva Trail District from the Illinois Department of Natural Resources.

Work on a third student residence hall is expected to begin next spring, Neher said.

Obituaries

Alanna Kaye

ALANNA KAYE (ANE-LANE) BROWLEY, 30, of Madison died at 3:20 a.m. Thursday, May 6, 1999, at Barnes-Jewish Hospital in St. Louis.

She was born March 17, 1969, in St. Louis, the daughter of resident of the Venice-Madison area.

Ms. Boyd was a shift supervisor at White Castle restaurant in Collinsville, a graduate of Madison High School, where she had been named homecoming queen, was an honor student and was involved in sports. She was a member of Bethel Temple Church of God in Christ in East St. Louis.

Survivors include her son, Thomas Garcia of Fairmont City; one daughter, Pamela Garcia of Ocoee, Fla.; two grandchildren, Dana Irene Garcia and Thomas John Garcia; and a companion, Ruth Price of Collinsville.

He was preceded in death by an infant son, Stephen Garcia; his parents, Tomas and Anna (Gaines) Garcia; and a sister, Juanita Medina.

Visitation will be from 5 to 9 p.m. Thursday, May 6, at Kandy Mortuary in Fairview Heights, with a prayer service at 7 p.m.

A funeral service will be held at 7 p.m. Wednesday, May 12, at McCasland Temple Church of God in Christ, 6822 State St., East St. Louis.

Officer Funeral Home, East St. Louis, handled the arrangements.

Otis Davis Sr.

OTIS DAVIS, 81, of Bonne Terre, Mo., formerly of East St. Louis, died Wednesday, April 28, 1999, at Anderson Hospital in Maryland Heights.

Mr. Davis was born June 25, 1917, in Golden Gate. He was a retired carpenter and maintenance man for Grey Pines, Inc., and a member of the Full Gospel Tabernacle in Fairview Heights, and was a member of the International Union of Organizing Engineers.

Survivors include his children,

Thelma Duncan and Ronald Davis, both of Granite City; and Orville Davis, both of Alhambra, Calif.

Memorials may be made to the Granite City Masonic Lodge 877, the Low 12 Club and Amvets Post 20 in Maryland Heights.

Services were Saturday, May 1, at Kuryk Funeral Home in Belleville, with the Rev. Jim Voecker officiating. Burial was in Mount Carmel Cemetery.

Memorials may be made to the American Cancer Society or the American Heart Association.

John Garcia

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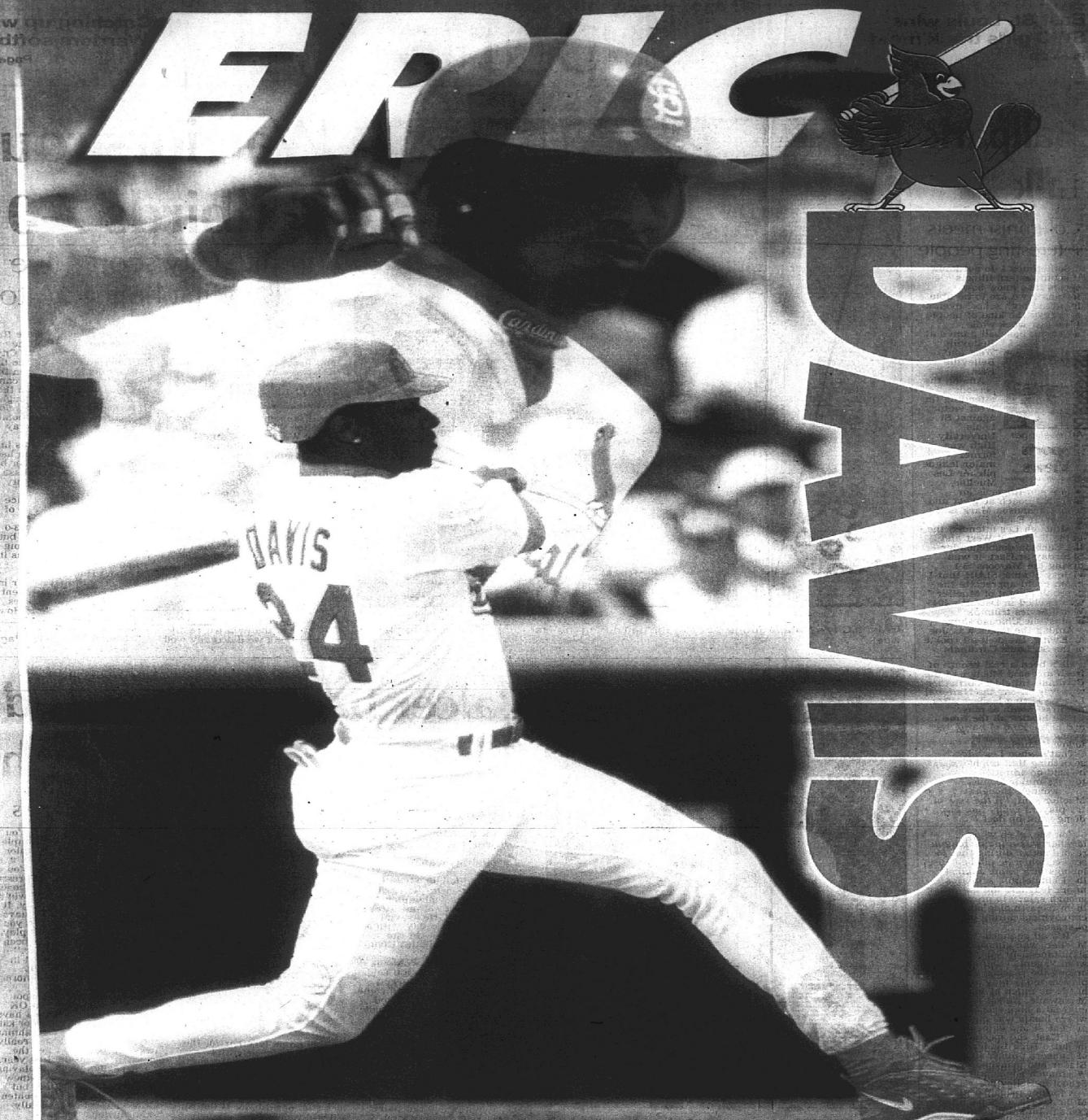
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Register to win a Cardinals family four pack at each of
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**Dobbs Tire & Auto Centers salutes
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Register by May 31. See store for details.

Soaring
East St. Louis wins
SWC girls track meet
Page 2B

Sports

sports on-line, www.yourjournal.com

Update
Catching up with
Warriors softball
Page 4B

Ballpark talk

Columnist meets interesting people

Sometimes I do not know if southwestern Illinois sports fans are so fortunate we are to be able to attend high school events and meet the kind of people I did last week while attending baseball games at Belleville West and Belleville East.

Among the people attending the West victory against St. Louis University High was former major league pitcher Les Mueller, whose son Roger is assistant coach at West and whose grandson Mark is a pitcher at East.

Another Les attended the game Friday at West and the Cahokia doubleheader Saturday at East, it was during the Maroons' 5-1 victory against SLUH that I again heard about the baseball insight of Mueller, who pitched in Detroit's 1945 World Series triumph against the Chicago Cubs.

Among the players Joe McEwing, the do-it-all rookie of the St. Louis Cardinals.

He's been a real breath of fresh air, said Mueller of the Cardinals infielder-outfielder who was among the National League's most valuable after the first month of play.

"He hustles all the time and is the kind of ballplayer young players should follow," Mueller said.

That's when Les added something that might never be said or admitted by today's major leaguers.

"I wonder, though," Mueller said, "if the rest of the players really like him doing what he does."

You see, even when Mueller was a major league record-setter during the 45 season, when he had 195 1/3 innings in a game against the Philadelphia Athletics, major leaguers did not make enough salary to prevent them from finding other employment during the offseason.

"It's all changed," said Mueller, "I almost said the word 'agents,' with me as among the reasons why players today may not hustle as much as McEwing. McEwing, at least at work and enjoyed a high school game where hustle was most evident — and enjoyable....

At East, the spectators included Roger, the father of Lancers pitcher Brad Binder and principal of Westhaven Elementary School in Belleville.

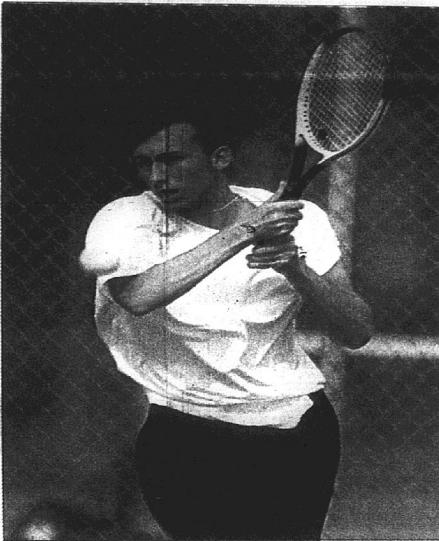
A former principal at Milliken Middle School and Central Junior High in Belleville, Binder, 52, also is

See BALLPARK, Page 2B



Tim Stephenson photo

Granite City's Natalie Judge controls the ball during the Warriors' 7-0 rout of Alton last week.



Tim Stephenson photo

Granite City sophomore Andy Balcer has improved in his second year at No. 1 singles for the Warriors.

YOU WANNA GET CUP CRAZY... AND SHOOT FOR THE STARS?

CUP CRAZY HOURS!

- Outside Kiel Center
- 4:30 to 8:30 p.m. Night!
- Hosted by The St. Louis Blues Band, FOX SPORTS NET MIDWEST
- Games, Free Stuff and More!
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GAME 3 - MONDAY, 6:30 P.M.
GAME 4 - WEDNESDAY, 6:30 P.M.
GAME 6 - MONDAY, MAY 17, 6:30 P.M.

TICKETS START AT \$20 AT:

Kiel Center Box Office
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• Blue Note Sport Shops
• Schnucks Video Clubs
• Famous-Barr
• Streetside Records
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You Wanna Go?

O'Fallon edges Belleville East in battle

By Scott Marion

Staff writer

The much-anticipated showdown between Belleville East and O'Fallon took place Friday, and the game lived up to its billing.

PREP

O'Fallon

Senior pitcher Mike Bowen tossed a five-hit shutout, outdueling East's Mike Johnson as the host Panthers squeezed out a 1-0 non-conference victory.

O'Fallon won 15-2, while the Lancers dropped to 22-3.

"Bowen is a great pitcher," said East coach Dennis Schutzenhofer. "You try to visualize what you want

to do against him, and before you know it, the ball is past you."

"It was the best pitching performance I've seen this year. It's pretty simple: he throws hard and gets the ball over the plate. If he gets the curveball over, we're in trouble."

The 6-foot-2, 180-pound Bowen struck out 11 batters and didn't walk anyone, although he hit one batter with a pitch. He struck out four consecutive batters in the first and second innings and fanned another four in a row in the fourth and fifth

innings.

"Bowen was exceptional defensively as well as with his pitching," said O'Fallon coach Art Vogel. "In one of the most challenging situations, the runners in scoring position in a 1-0 ballgame — he was able to keep his composure."

The Panthers scored their lone run in the bottom of the second inning. One-out singles by Matt Butchko and Andy Morrell put runners at first and second base. Johnson retired the next

batter, but Derek Stratman walked to load the bases. The next batter, leadoff hitter Brooks Colvin, hit a 3-2 pitch to shortstop Dante Brinkley, who could not field the bad-hop ground ball. The infield single was enough to score Butchko, and it was all the offense O'Fallon needed.

"They got a couple singles, but the win was a walk-off," Schutzenhofer said. "That moved a runner to third and it meant they could score on a ground ball."

Bowen, meanwhile, continued to

shut down the Lancers. East had one hit in all but two innings, including leadoff singles in the third, fourth and seventh, but could not score. The Lancers' final chance started with a bunt hit to center by John Louis. The next batter, Mike Brown, nearly reached base on a bunt, but Bowen dove for the ball and threw to first for the out while lying on his stomach.

The sacrifice moved Louis to second base and brought up Keith Tillotson, who hit a hard grounder to shortstop. Butchko fielded the ball and threw out Tillotson at first while Louis moved to third base. Bowen ended the game by striking out Bart Bennett.

Panthers senior pitcher Bowen shuts out Lancers

East St. Louis cruises to conference crown

Collinsville ties Granite City for fifth in SWC

By Scott Marion

Staff writer

It takes a lot to impress Nino Fennoy, which isn't surprising considering the numerous team and individual state championships his athletes have won.

That's why the East St. Louis Senior High girls track coach maintains a low-key attitude as the Flyerettes won Thursday's Southwestern Conference meet at Belleville East. East St. Louis won nine of 19 events, including 16 up 172 points, 63 more than second-place Edwardsville (107).

"It was a good day," said Fennoy, who was the longtime coach at East St. Louis Lincoln High School before Lincoln merged with East St. Louis prior to the 1997-98 school year. "I can't remember the last time we ran at Belleville East, it may be nine years. It wasn't supposed to be this good a day, but the weather turned out nice."

"I didn't get to see the (St. Clair) county meet (Fennoy missed the 28th April event at East St. Louis due to a family emergency), but we're on the right track," he said.

Standouts for the Flyerettes included Elisha Wright, who won the 100- and 200-meter dashes and Dawn Harper, who won the 110- and 300-meter hurdles. Freshman Shontia Chester won the 3,200-meter run and placed second in the Edwardsville senior Amy Semith in the 1,600.

East St. Louis also won the 800-meter relay, the 4x200 relay and the 4x400 relay.

"As far as our times, there have been some surprises," Fennoy said. "Last weekend, our distance people ran better at Kirkwood (Mo.). We just need some consistency from our sprinters and hurdlers, but we're getting there."

Edwardsville's four events en route to an impressive second-place finish, while Belleville West outdistanced Belleville East by 18 points (67-72), clinching third place. Collinsville and Granite City tied for fifth with 34 points each and Alton was last with 26 points.

Shontia Chester was a two-time winner for Edwardsville, placing first in the 800-meter run with a time of 2:25.7 and defeating Chester by more than 19 seconds in the 1,600 with a time of 16.2.

"You can count on her too much — we just kind of figure



East St. Louis' Dawn Harper won the 100- and 300-meter hurdles titles at the Southwestern Conference meet last week.

her in (first place),"

Edwardsville coach Babe Stahlhut said. Semith, who has signed a letter of intent to compete in track and cross country for the University of Missouri, "Next week (at Friday's IHSA Class AA Collinsville Sectional) there's a girl from Springfield Southeast who is probably a good runner, but she will be a nice race," he said.

Stahlhut said Semith will run the 800 and the 1,600 at the sectional, but he isn't sure if she will run the 200 or the 400 relay, where she helped the Tigers placed third in the last event of the day at the SWC meet.

Other winners for Edwardsville were the 4x800 relay and freshman Kelly Kirby in the 200-meter dash. "She was probably our biggest surprise," Stahlhut said. Kirby, who had a time of 26.5 seconds, "I thought she might run second."

Belleville West, meanwhile, got off to a slow start in the field events. Senior Danielle Lawary won the shot put (43-0) and the discus (117-5), while sophomore Christina Archibald won the high jump (5-2). Archibald also placed second in the triple jump.

"I told the kids East St.

Louis would be first, but for second, third and fourth between Edwardsville, East and West, it would depend on who got the most first places," said West coach Phil Highsmith. "The girls rose to the occasion. Liz Wanless was fourth in the shot and Shannon Wobbe took fifth place in the discus, which was good. We will enter the hurdles, but we put our kids where we thought we could get the maximum effort from them."

Danielle threw 43 in the shot last week and 43 again this week. "It's a good sign. She also had her second-best discus throw this year. Christina won the high jump and long jump and got second in the triple jump, but we also got a second place from Christine Betz in the high jump."

West is in the IHSA Class A sectionals Saturday along with Belleville East and East St. Louis.

"Sectional week is probably our best week of the year," Highsmith said. "Everybody is focused."

Junior Lori Thebeau was Collinsville's lone winner, placing first in the triple jump at 33-0.4. Granite City and Alton did not win any events.

Prep track

Southwestern Conference

Meet

(Thursday)

Team Standings

1. East St. Louis 92-0; 2. Edwardsville 107; 3. Belleville West 90-4; 4. Belleville East 72-5; 5. Collinsville 34-5; 6. Granite City 34-7; 7. Alton 26.

Individual Standings

Long Jump — 1. Christina Archibald (BW) 16-7; 2. Jackson (BE) 16-6 1/2; 3. Bush (ESL) 15-10 1/2; 4. Shontia Chester (BE) 15-10; 5. Ridgeway (GC) 15-9 1/2; 6. Ridgeway (GC) 15-9 1/2; 7. Johnson (ESL) 14-6; 8. Shontia Chester (BE) 14-5; 9. Semith (ESL) 13-6; 10. Lawary (BW) 13-5; 11. Bush (ESL) 13-5; 12. Lawary (BW) 13-5; 13. Bush (ESL) 13-5; 14. Bush (ESL) 13-5; 15. Shontia Chester (BE) 12-5; 16. Bush (ESL) 12-5; 17. Johnson (ESL) 12-5; 18. Bush (ESL) 12-5; 19. Shontia Chester (BE) 12-5; 20. Lawary (BW) 12-5; 21. Bush (ESL) 12-5; 22. Lawary (BW) 12-5; 23. Bush (ESL) 12-5; 24. Shontia Chester (BE) 12-5; 25. Bush (ESL) 12-5; 26. Lawary (BW) 12-5; 27. Bush (ESL) 12-5; 28. Shontia Chester (BE) 12-5; 29. Bush (ESL) 12-5; 30. Lawary (BW) 12-5; 31. Bush (ESL) 12-5; 32. Shontia Chester (BE) 12-5; 33. Bush (ESL) 12-5; 34. Lawary (BW) 12-5; 35. Bush (ESL) 12-5; 36. Shontia Chester (BE) 12-5; 37. Bush (ESL) 12-5; 38. Lawary (BW) 12-5; 39. Bush (ESL) 12-5; 40. Shontia Chester (BE) 12-5; 41. 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Warriors scores seven goals vs. Alton

Continued from Page 1B

in the St. Dominic/Francis Howell North Shootout last week. Her return to the field this season is questionable.

On Thursday, the Warriors dropped a 2-0 decision to Alton (Mo.) Cor Jesu Academy in the semifinals of that Shootout after going 2-0 in pool play. This past Tuesday, St. Louis Catholic Conference leader Belleville East edged the Warriors 2-1. But the Warriors put it all together against the Redskins.

"Now we have some other big games," Baker said. "We have to get some good habits of play. Raub is going to have to play well, and can especially on this field. Our field went from bad at the beginning to good now, from not being on it and from all of the rain. It's a good field, and it's good on a good field, she has that skill. I think Natalie (Judge) gets a little bit better each game."

Both Cor Jesu and Belleville East played physical with the Warriors, whose passive attempts at retribution met with the ire of officials. It was a different story Thursday against Alton.

"They handled the physical game better than the Cor Jesu," Baker said. "They (Alton) have a couple of physical players and we didn't worry about it. I think it helps when you don't have quite the gusts of wind and a field that maybe



Granite City coach Gene Baker was displeased that the Warriors got the fifth seed in the Columbia Sectional tournament.

you can keep the ball down on."

Leah Gamblin and Debra

Aaron also scored Thursday for the Warriors, who moved to 7-2 overall on the season and 4-2 in the Southwestern Conference regular season.

After non-conference games Friday against Aquinas (Mequon, north St. Louis County) and Saturday (against Chatham Glenwood), the Warriors close their Southwestern Conference regular season May 17 at home against O'Fallon.

"It's here," Baker said. "They'll be scrapping. It's very important for us to find the bracket up."

Granite City coach Gene Baker was hoping the Warriors strength of schedule would have carried more weight in the meeting.

"I was very pleased

in the first vote," Baker said. "I was hoping for the fourth seed. It was a tie and we got fifth. Who we play will depend on how they set the bracket up."

The seeds for the IHSA Columbia Sectional soccer tournament were announced Wednesday night. Belleville East got the top seed, followed by Collarsville, Carbondale and Triad. Granite City finished fifth.

"I was very disappointed in the first vote," Baker said. "I was hoping for the fourth seed. It was a tie and we got fifth. Who we play will also depend on how they set the bracket up."

Postseason news

Area coaches gathered Wednesday evening to seed the Columbia Sectional tournament.

Belleville East (14-1) garnered the top spot, followed by Collarsville (10-2), Carbondale (8-2). Triad (8-1) edged out Granite City (7-4) for the fourth seed.

"We tied with Granite City in the first vote," Baker said. "They were voted for just us and Granite City. We were the only teams that tied. Somebody must have changed that vote, and we got the fourth seed."

"I was relatively pleased with that because we hadn't played any of the best teams yet. We hadn't played O'Fallon, and we hadn't played Collinsville (the Lady Knights and the Cahokias tied 0-0 Thursday night). We

hadn't played Carbondale, and those are the three seeds in our bracket. Our record was maybe better, but we hadn't even played that many games. I thought it was good."

Granite City coach Gene Baker was hoping the Warriors strength of schedule would have carried more weight in the meeting.

"I was very pleased in the seeding," Baker said. "I was hoping for the fourth seed. It was a tie, and we got fifth. Who we play will determine how they set the bracket up."

Granite City coach Gene Baker was hoping the Warriors strength of schedule would have carried more weight in the meeting.

"I was very pleased in the seeding," Baker said. "I was hoping for the fourth seed over Granite City.

St. Louis Catholic Conference Stogsdill is among the area leaders in goals scored with 17. Erin Fidus has 12, while Amie Rengel has scored 10. As a team, the Lady Knights have scored 57 goals.

Balcer now is 7-1 in dual matches

Continued from Page 1B

"It has felt really good coming out here this year. It doesn't feel awkward. It makes me feel good to know that I am a sophomore now, and have been able to lead some juniors and seniors who are at the top of their game."

Balcer already is a big part in Granite City's rebuilding program, and the importance of his role in the ascension of Warriors' tennis will continue to increase.

"The one thing Andy has in common with these other young players is that in the important role is the tennis ability — that from the very beginning, it was obvious that they were going to be at the No. 1 or No. 2 position throughout their high school careers," Balcer said. "If you have a very good singles player who can garner some hardware, it's always good. It's always good for the youngsters in the city to read about that in the paper, to have some local heroes to admire. Andy actually, he's a sophomore, takes a backseat most of the time as far as a leadership role on the team. He is only a sophomore and he does a great job of leading and being vocal. At this point in his career, he leads much more by example. He does all the right things and works hard, and all the right things that we suggest to modify his game. In whatever area we suggest, he tries to accommodate whatever we feel needs to be done. In that regard, he is a leader."

"During his junior and senior years, I hope that he becomes a little more vocal in his leadership. We'll see. For the present, he is in the line that we intend, the top man needs to be a leader."

Balcer would like to have a leadership role in the Warriors' rebuilding program. "I'd like to be a big part of that," Balcer said. "But I think that Cassian (coach and head tennis player) (Karibian) has a lot to do with that also. This year, we have tried to get the word out more and try to get more publicity as far as the tennis team goes. We have a coach from St.

Louis, Jeff Lynn, who helps a lot with the junior varsity kids and even with the varsity. Sure, he has my mom, Jason Woods and Harry Painter, helps bring the younger guys up to par. He has helped a lot also, so it's a combination of things."

Balcer's game on the court is complete, offering few blatant vulnerabilities for an opponent to exploit.

"I like to think that I have a good all-around game," Balcer said. "I don't have any huge weapons, and that kind of goes against me, but my opponents can't really focus on one part of my game. It's pretty decent."

"The biggest part of my game, I would like to think, is the mental part of it. Tennis is about 70 percent mental and 30 percent what you can do physically. I would like to think that I have come a lot farther in my mental game as far as strategy and not getting frustrated. I can hit two or three bad shots in a row. I think that is the biggest part of my game. I'm able to keep my head on straight a lot more than I was last year, and I think that's why I lost so much last year."

Balcer also gets an edge from being a lefthander in a field of predominantly righties.

"I think that is a slight edge," Balcer said. "A lefthander's serve turns in a different direction, comes to a player from a different direction. I think that's about 85 or 90 percent of the time. A righthander player is used to hitting his shot in a certain direction or he is used to looking out for a certain side of his opponent, which when he plays a lefthander of course is on the opposite side. So the righthanders have to change their mind. I think there is kind of a built-in advantage for a lefthander."

For the rest of this season, Balcer will continue to maintain his form, making slight adjustments, and maybe create some noise in the possession.

"Within three weeks of play left and two weeks of matches, it is going to be difficult to find any kind of a winning streak," Balcer said. "But we know some of the facets of his game aren't as strong as we would like them to be. So we want to work on his volleys on the forehand side. We feel like that can be improved just a notch or two and become a little bit more of a weapon."

Balcer also has team goals to chase.

"I would love for the team to end up around 11-7," Balcer said. "I like to play in region next week and I would love to win that match. I play Kevin Alford and he is really tough. I'd like to make a good showing against him because it will rank him in the sectionals and conference. But sectionals is the main thing I am looking forward to as an individual player. I hope that I am able to do that this year, but it all depends on the sectional draw. If I am able to win against O'Fallon and make a good showing against Alford, I think that I will be able to get a pretty high seeding in the sectionals. Tennis tournaments deal a lot with the luck of the draw, and so I am hoping for a good draw and I'm able to place first through third in sectionals and possibly go to state. That will be really tough. If I can keep that ranking and maybe a little bit more in my game, I might be able to do that."

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'Star Wars' fans line up to purchase new chapter's toys

Like Luke Skywalker saving Princess Leia in the original "Star Wars," fans of the Los Leon had a choice of the "rescue" his choice of the new movie-related toys released this week.

Leech, a music producer from Los Angeles, waited four hours in line at the Los Feliz, Calif., Toys-R-Us before it opened. Then, rather than joining the mob scene, he went to the "Star Wars" section like everybody else, he went a few aisles over and shouted, "They're opening new boxes in the back."

As the mob went to the back — where there were no new boxes — he had his pick.

"After a while it does start to get ridiculous," he said. "I won't buy everything, but all of those people who say it's childish to spend so much money on that movie, just go see the movie and you'll understand."

"Star Wars" fans, collectors and others just flocked to the toy store. The Force invaded toy stores Monday just after the stroke of midnight. The mission was to become the first in the system to buy merchandise from the upcoming "Star Wars: Episode I — The Phantom

Menace," which doesn't reach theaters until May 19. It was a night the dark side literally lined up to "rescue" his choice of the new movie-related toys released this week.

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Fans had been waiting for months to activate the little Darth Maul's light saber swinging action, or to repeatedly press the saddlebag of the nimble starship Yoda's realistic running action, or to just cover their bodies in "Star Wars" lotion.

But the emperor forbade it.

George Lucas, the director, creator and owner of all things "Star Wars," secured strict licensing deals that prevented toy maker Hasbro from revealing virtually any information about its Chinese-made products until the determined him. The Internet users had pictures of the stuff posted on their unofficial web sites for months.)

"Then, just after midnight, 'Many did it go!'" said Mark Baker, a sales floor manager at the Lawrenceville Toys-R-Us.

The scene was ... well, let him describe it.

"One of the managers brought a video camera to tape it, and there were all these people with their shopping carts, and as soon as the store opened, they started running," he said. "People were grabbing the action figures off the shelves as fast as they could, filling entire shopping carts with them. One guy had 100 of the battle droids. He said he was going to set up a battle scene."

At a Wal-Mart in Tuisa, Idaho, one collector went so far as to offer store employees \$1,000 for a Star Wars promotional sign. At the Boise, Idaho, Toys-R-Us, shopping carts were equivalent of a 40-foot semi-truck of movie toys.

"It's pure madness," said Erik Henriksen, a 16-year-old college student. "There was so much pure desire for this stuff we were terrified."

And who were these people? Some, to be sure, were collectors, acquiring Jar Jars for a rainy day or diversifying a college fund.

Horoscope

SUNDAY, MAY 9
Happy Mother's Day. With Venus newly deposited in the comforting sign of Cancer, it is easy to give love and a sense of responsibility to the maternal powers that be. With the moon in wise Pisces, deeply appreciative feelings are accessed and meaningful expressions are exchanged. Rely on sheer instinct for extraordinary results.

TODAY'S BIRTHDAY (May 9) Real personal progress happens when you finally let go of certain self-imposed limits. Your love life blossoms when you lose self-awareness. Coupling goes beyond beautiful if each can keep from criticizing his or her partner and turn that high-powered microscope inward. July represents a bridge to the future. Your marriage months are October and January.

ARIES (March 21-April 19) Pressure from a lover will finally give you the strength to let go of your grievances. Stop reminding yourself that attaining goals requires hard work. Plans made in haste won't bear fruit. Your family may be experiencing some trouble.

TAURUS (April 20-May 19) You are lucky in games and sporting events. Have an honest talk about your feelings. Spend time reducing your home or wardrobe. An Aquarius or Gemini has a proposition for you. The rules will be adjusted by you.

GEMINI (May 21-June 21) You hold the purse strings after you prove you can handle it. You impress a potential love just by being yourself.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22) Your style is irresistible at parties, so socialize. Take a chance, and let your ideas be heard. You are tempted to take on more than you can accomplish. A Pisces or Aries responds favorably when you speak with words of honey.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22) An ordinary experience becomes your stepping stone to feel some of your self-worth. You will see the results of your work over the past few weeks. Your struggle with authorities is almost over.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22) Stick together, and be tolerant. Kids learn imagination by watching you use yours. You

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Someone close to your heart deserves a second chance. You should consider going into business for yourself.

CANCER (June 22-July 22) A major change occurs in your personal life. You receive payoffs and others flock to you for advice. A problem is solved by going straight to the top. After your schedule to include more adventure and fun.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21) Good fortune established now rebounds to your great benefit. A friend may seem more like an antagonist, but if you're able to back up your position with facts, all turns out fine. Your patience with in-laws wins you respect.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19) A mentor relationship may turn into romance, but not without warning. Don't worry whether you give enough — only remember to give from the heart. The small work adds up to masterpiece with the right planning.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18) Take care of your health, and nerves settle down nicely. Friends are a big help. A relationship with someone younger may cool just as rapidly as it advances. Speak frankly about what behavior is acceptable from a child.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20) Blessings are abundant. Count them. Ask for help this afternoon, even if you don't think you need it. People get in touch with their generosity when they feel useful. Some kind of instruction or training is needed.

are receptive to warmth from one who hurt you before. Your personal progress is remarkable. Review the

SCORPIO (Oct. 24-Nov. 21) Developing your creativity bolsters your self-esteem. You must fight with an ex over money, but this turn of events is worth the effort. Diversify your financial interests. A Leo responds favorably to your advances.

TAURUS (April 20-May 19) A major change occurs in your personal life. You receive payoffs and others flock to you for advice. A problem is solved by going straight to the top. After your schedule to include more adventure and fun.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22) Your style is irresistible at parties, so socialize. Take a chance, and let your ideas be heard. You are tempted to take on more than you can accomplish. A Pisces or Aries responds favorably when you speak with words of honey.

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museum workers are cleaning the room and putting the World's Fair pieces inside glass cases.

The high ceilings and wooden floors should make an attractive new home for the collection. Grandchild. The museum is a ideal spot for these pieces, she said.

Alexander DeMenil was one of the World's Fair's directors

1904 World's Fair collection now open to general public

By Glen Sparks
Staff writer

Joseph Meisel's collection of 1904 World's Fair memorabilia is going public.

Since April 30, visitors to the DeMenil Mansion and Museum, 3300 Maryville Place, can view all 1,200 pieces from the fair that Meisel collected through the decades.

The objects on display will include glassware,

hand-painted jewelry boxes, vases, china, pewter napkin rings, mother of pearl purses, fine stained glass walking sticks and more.

Marcella Grass, executive director of the DeMenil, said Meisel's daughter, Paul McBride, wanted to donate all the memorabilia to the mansion. Meisel, a longtime Red Cross volunteer, died in 1988.

"My father had always

hoped that someday his World's Fair collection would be presented to the public with all of St. Louis," McBride said.

The collection astounded Grass, who examined it at McBride's house.

"It's not a sporadic or one particular kind of souvenir," she said. "It's a great mix."

The museum still needed a place for the pieces, though, and decided on the third-floor attic. Once a storage area,

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Entertainment



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Brendan Fraser and Rachel Weisz in a scene from the Universal Pictures release, "The Mummy." The remake of the 1932 Boris Karloff horror classic is now showing at a theater near you.

'The Mummy' remake more like a tepid Indiana Jones flick

A lot of people exclaim, "Oh, my God," during the latest remake of "The Mummy," as the cast battles a resurrected mummy, as well as various plagued and bugs. The on-screen exhortations, however, are nothing compared to what some moviegoers may mutter under their breath as they ponder a derivative and tame "Indiana Jones" wannabe that conspicuously wastes its likable leading man, Brendan Fraser.

Recently seen emerging from 35 years under ground in "Blas From the Past," or mowing the lawn in his maniacal quest for gods and money, Fraser here makes a bid to be a Harrison Ford for the millennium.

That would be fine if "The Mummy" delivered. It's possible to do with any wit and panache. Instead, it's a formulaic retread of an often-told tale. And if you have seen the 1932 Boris Karloff original, forget it. This new film boasts all too little relation to the classic horror and mythic art direction of the original.

The plot remains deliciously silly and complicated. It's the telling of it that disappoints in written words. Stephen Sommers' saga of treasure-seekers terrorized by the newly revived and murderous Imhotep, the priest-turned-mummy of the title.

In the prehistoric Theban fortification of Hamunaputra, the City of the Dead, Imhotep and an evil henchman, the Anck-Su-Namun, the mistress of the pharaoh, who was subsequently killed.

For his misdeeds, Imhotep was buried alive adjacent to some raid treasures and has spent 3,000 years nursing a vengeful desire to rise up and wreak havoc by unleashing the 10 plagues of Egypt.

Enter Fraser, treasure-seeking Rick O'Connell.

Every action hero needs a sidekick, and Rick finds one in Evelyn (Rachel Weisz), a wide-eyed English Egyptologist who gets to play prim to Rick's sometimes improper American.

While she uses words like "beastly," brother Jonathan

(John Hannah) provides ever-so-English comic relief as an effete bumbler whose feyness doesn't exempt him from the gumpal that arrives right after.

Before long, a cabal of pretty disgusting creatures are stalking our heroes — in some truly Byzantine ways — while never quite shaking Rick's demeanor.

"Mummies," Rick says coolly, as if the challenge were he faced every day. Clearly, the creatures to Rick's lobsters were to Woody Allen in "Annie Hall" — a necessary evil that goes with the territory when you're trying to be a hero.

Their pictures aren't expected to be rich in characterization but, even by those standards, "The Mummy" is surprisingly poorly written.

"Rescue the damsel in distress, kill the bad guy and save the world." Rick says of his task, a cliche sounding less like a crusading adventurer than a young filmmakers' patching his latest screen test with bloopers.

Even the most chilling Hollywood executive would pale, however, next to the mummy and his legions of savagery, who care about nothing beyond the Star of David and, yes, cats.

As for the flesh-eating bugs, they may be the biggest gross-out factor, but the numbers of audience members burying their faces in their hands (and not because of the dialogue).

— Associated Press

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Movie Schedule

Film timetable for Sunday, May 9. For times on other days or to confirm these times, check local theaters.

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Life (R) 1:30, 4:15, 7:15, 9:35
Entrapment (PG-13) 1:15, 4:00,
7:05, 9:45
The Mummy (PG-13) 1:00, 3:45,
7:00, 9:45
Out of Towners (PG-13) 1:45,
3:30, 7:10, 9:35

5:35-8:15
Entrapment (PG-13) 2:15, 4:40, 7:10,
9:45

10 Things I Hate About You (PG-13)
2:00, 4:15, 7:05, 9:45

Election (R) 2:20, 4:45, 7:05, 9:30

Never Been Kissed (PG-13) 12:50,
3:00, 5:20, 7:30, 9:45

Never Been Kissed (PG-13) 1:55,
4:15, 7:20, 9:45

Parade (PG-13) 4:50, 7:15, 9:35

Twins (PG-13) 1:00, 3:00
5:10, 7:15, 9:15

Life is Beautiful (PG-13) 1:30, 4:15,
7:15, 9:35

Shakespeare in Love (R) 1:50, 4:30,
7:10, 9:50

Out of Towners (PG-13) 2:10, 4:50,
7:45, 9:35

7:45-10:15
Entrapment (PG-13) 2:15, 4:40,
7:10, 9:45

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Lost And Found (PG-13) 2:00,
7:00

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Life (R) 1:40, 4:30, 7:20, 10:00
The Mummy (PG-13) 1:10, 4:00,
6:30, 9:45

The Matrix (R) 1:20, 4:10, 7:00,
9:00

Entrapment (PG-13) 1:30, 4:20,
7:10, 9:45

ROXANA CINE THEATER
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Lost And Found (PG-13) 2:00,
7:00

ST. CLAIR 10
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Life (R) 1:40, 4:30, 7:20, 10:00
The Mummy (PG-13) 1:15, 4:15,
7:15, 9:15

The Mummy (PG-13) 2:00, 5:00,
8:00

Baby Geniuses (PG) 1:10, 4:10,
7:00

Go (R) 7:05, 9:10

Analyze This (R) 1:25, 4:25, 7:25,
9:30

NAMOEKI CINEMA
30 Namoeiki Village, Granite City,
877-8630

Death From the Past (PG-13)
2:15, 7:15
8 MM (R) 2:00, 7:00

O'FALLON 15 CINE
1320 Central Park Dr., O'Fallon,
822-9000

Smashing Tin (R) 1:35, 4:20, 7:00,
9:45

Forces of Nature (PG-13) 2:00,
4:20, 7:00, 9:45

ED (PG-13) 1:05, 5:45

Cruel Intentions (R) 3:30, B-15

Life (R) 1:30, 4:15, 7:05, 9:30

Entrapment (PG-13) 12:50, 2:15

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home, 4 bedrooms, 4 baths, 16

Automotive

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By Tom Strongman

I was sitting at a stoplight feeling rather self-conscious about the stripes, light-blue polished wheels and numerous Firebird details of Pontiac's 30th anniversary Trans Am, when I looked in the rearview mirror.

Two teenage boys in the car behind me gave me a thumbs-up. Must be a generational thing. While I was slightly intimidated by the test car's gaudiness, these guys loved it.

I remember when I was a kid I always coveted the wildest, most exotic cars on the market, regardless of their impracticality for everyday use. In some ways, this special edition Trans Am is one of those fat-tired, brightly striped super sport motorcycles that looks like it is going 150 mph sitting still. Both are built to go fast, look tough and draw attention to the rider, or driver, as the case may be.

This special anniversary model of the Firebird Trans Am pays homage to the 1969 Firebird Trans Am, whose name came

Automotive companies embracing recycling

By Rick Stoff

Few inventions have affected earth's environment as much as the automobile. From exhaust emissions to the disposal of spent oil, tires and entire cars, the automobile has imposed widespread costs in return for the personal conveniences it has provided.

Major advances have been made in recent years, particularly in terms of emissions reductions from individual vehicles. Still, drivers have a major impact on the environment than 130 other consumer activities, says "The Consumer's Guide to Effective Environmental Choices," a new book

published by the Union of Concerned Scientists.

Dispensing of the millions — if not billions — of tons of waste created by automobile use is one of the big issues.

The auto industry's environmental stance was noted by many companies in the automobile business who showed off their contributions to environmentalism.

DaimlerChrysler and 24 of its component suppliers exhibited a Dodge Stratus containing as much recycled material as possible, about 85 percent, by weight. The company says about 75 percent of the content in current cars is recycled, and it is striving to reach 85 percent by 2002.

The Stratus was fitted with tires, seat covers, floor mats, interior fuel tank, door handles, carpeting, mirrors and seat belts made of recycled base materials. Currently the metal and

many plastic components of cars contain recycled material. DaimlerChrysler challenged its suppliers to produce the recycled materials at the same costs as current components or to even lower the costs.

"The automobile is the most recycled product, and we're trying to raise the bar even higher," said Ronald Boltz, vice president of product strategy and regulatory affairs at DaimlerChrysler. "In 1998, about 85 percent of all vehicles are recycled today. No other product comes close. By comparison, aluminum cans are recycled at 51 percent and newspapers at 40 percent."

The biggest recycling problem posed by automobiles is "fluff," the non-combustible material left after a car is crushed. The fluff, which has been removed, fluff, which contains fiber, odd bits of plastic, adhesives

and rubber, accounts for millions of tons of waste each year. Some of the plastic is recycled, but most is either made of recycled plastic or

Employment

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Agents claim a piece of the action

Outsourcing of accounts receivables adds up to opportunities for independent agents

By Barbara Ponder

Collecting other people's accounts can be a lucrative business as Gina Ward has discovered.

G.L. Ward and Associates in June 1998. She has never regretted the move.

"I'm very, very busy," she said. Working she now employs two temporary employees on a consistent basis to assist with backlog.

G.L. Ward offers accounts receivable management for documenting billing, tracking insurance claims and collecting accounts.

Ward has a master's degree in health services management from Wayne State and worked for about 10 years as a supervisor at Barnes-Jewish West.

A person interested in managing accounts receivable for professionals benefits from first working in a doctor's office.

"There's a lot of technical expertise," Ward said. "You need expertise with insurance companies and how the whole process work." Collection experience is great, too.

Working in healthcare is a way to learn about what may be useful when marketing accounts management services.

However, Ward said, even with her connections, she developed about 90 percent of her initial client base through cold calls.

Ward uses software designed for healthcare accounts and collections. She estimates the start-up costs of the business at about



Gina Ward owns her own collection agency.

\$5,000 including a computer and other office equipment.

Collectors usually charge a fee per claim or collection, she said. Agents may make between \$30,000 and \$80,000 annually, depending upon the amount of clients served.

The National Creditors Association is one of the industry's professional organizations.

The association estimates that about 70 percent of the United States over \$600 per year, equating to about 54 pre-tax labor hours for an average non-supervisory employee.

A person working in healthcare accounts and collections must keep abreast of changes in the industry and the law.

The International Code of Diagnostic and Compiling is updated monthly. The use of incorrect code results in

percent. Ward expects work to increase as outsourcing becomes more prevalent.

"A lot of doctors are finding that their staff cannot handle the level of business and tasks required to maintain a certain level of quality," Ward said. "A company like mine can encompass both the billing and collection."

A person working in healthcare accounts and collections must keep abreast of changes in the industry and the law.

The International Code of Diagnostic and Compiling is updated monthly. The use of incorrect code results in

claims being returned or paid at a incorrect rate.

Prompt turnaround is important.

"It takes roughly 30 to 45 days for an insurance claim to be processed," Ward said. "The longer you wait in getting that information, the longer it takes if it's the patient's responsibility."

If the address and phone number is incorrect, an agent will have a skip trace on the individual.

"Skip tracing is a means of local telephone protection on an individual basis," Ward said. "There are a number of ways to do it. We use an investigative agency."

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No matter what field of sales you're in, there are several strategies you can utilize in your resume to land more interviews and higher salary offers.

One such strategy is to fully illustrate the depth and breadth of your experience and how it relates to the field in which you seek employment or the type of product you wish to market. To be convinced of the depth of your expertise, employers want to know key information such as:

The volume of sales you've generated.

The size of individual contracts you've managed or negotiated.

The depth of your product technical expertise.

And, if your experience matches the level of position you are seeking.

To illustrate, let's look at a typical resume that does an excellent job of addressing many of these key elements.

Delores had been an account manager for a leading telecommunications provider for 10 years and wanted to move into a regional sales management or director of sales position. Take a moment and review a section from her resume.

1990-Present

Account Manager
Responsible for sales and revenue protection of 30 customers. Generated \$300,000 in revenue.

Managed installation of complex telecommunications network services and coordinated between customers, external

vendors and different internal organizations.

Designed the most cost effective service mix available for each client using corporate modeling algorithm.

Does this description position Delores as a regional sales manager or as a sales representative?

What this resume doesn't show is that Delores had supervisory and training experience in that organization and management of national and international accounts with total sales of \$10 million annually.

Delores is an outstanding sales management expertise, yet wasn't included.

Like many job seekers, Delores began her resume by describing her job to be her primary job duties as an account manager or sales rep rather than those duties that more closely matched her goal, that of managing and training a sales staff.

Working with Delores, she realized she needed to move away from listing job title and instead list the range of sales management skills she had developed in order to move up her career.

To write a powerful resume, list the skills you've been given in sales. Then prioritize the list by selecting those skills that most closely match the types of sales positions you want.

Regina Rontow provides 40 free resumes and job research workshops in Granite City at <http://www.provenresumes.com>.

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Boat, 4x4, 4dr, 3.0L V6, 5spd

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Leather, moon roof, loaded!

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Cassens

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Sunday, May 9, 1999, Granite City Journal Page 5C

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HOURS: 7:00 a.m. - 8:30 p.m.

Monday - Thursday

7 a.m. - 6 p.m., Friday

9 a.m. - 1:30 p.m., Saturday

Granite City 877-7700

Belleville 277-7000

Collinsville 344-0264

Monroe 281-7691

Waterloo 939-3467

or 1-800-766-FAST

Mon.-Fri. 8am-5pm Call 344-0264, 877-7700, 281-7691, or 277-7000

HOW TO...

PLACE AN AD

There are four easy ways to place your ad:

BRING IT!

Granite City: 1815 Delmar,

Granite City, IL 62040.

Phone: 877-7700.

Belleville: 212 N. Illinois,

Belleville, IL 62222. Phone:

344-0264.

Monroe County: 13 E. Clay,

Collinsville, IL 62234.

Phone: 939-3467.

Waterloo: 939-3467.

MONDAY-FRIDAY: 8am-5pm

MONDAY-FRIDAY OR 1-800-766-FAST

9am-1:30pm Sat.

MONDAY

320 HELP WANTED 320 HELP WANTED

WAREHOUSE

Major food distributor has an immediate opening for a full-time Shipping/Receiving Coordinator who enjoys working in a fast-paced environment. This individual will perform all warehouse office functions such as scheduling delivery appointments, preparing receiving documents and other duties. Some may be required to work evenings and/or overtime. Must be able to read and understand English and/or Spanish. Knowledge and/or working experience in the food distribution industry a plus. Knowledge and/or routing experience a plus. Ideal candidate must be detail oriented, able to work under pressure and time restraints. Must be computer literate and have 10 key to touch. Hours are Mon-Fri 8:00am-2:00pm. Some evenings may be required. Excellent benefits package included. Please respond in confidence to: Human Resources, 1800 Adams, Granite City, IL 62040.

DENTAL ASSISTANT

Our general practice dental office is seeking a career-minded dental assistant who knows the value of education and experience. Dental team experience is preferred. We offer an excellent work environment, weekends off, and a negotiable benefit and salary package. Send or fax resume to Drs. Kathy and Kent Splaingard, 1923 Johnson Rd., Granite City, IL 62040, FAX 877-6330.

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Leave a detailed voice resume & daytime phone number.

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SECRETARY - EDUCATION TO CAREERS

Belleville Area College is now accepting application for the position of Secretary, Education to Careers. This is a full-time Support Services Staff position, reporting upon completion, growth in enrollment, job placement, GED, plus three years of progressively responsible secretarial experience is required; OR Associate's degree in business or secretarial science with one year of secretarial experience is required. Knowledge of and proficiency with Microsoft Word, Excel, Access and Powerpoint strongly preferred. Proficient secretarial skills such as proper phone etiquette, handling of correspondence, and general office procedures. List of secretarial and office practices and procedures is required. Starting salary is \$18,127 per year with flexible employee benefit program. Respond by May 30, 1999, 4:00 pm with cover letter, current resume, official college transcripts provided by your institution, and list of three references to:

**Human Resources Office
Belleville Area College
2500 Carlyle Avenue
Belleville, IL 62221**

Belleville Area College is an EEO/Affirmative Action Employer

**APPLICATION FOR EMPLOYMENT
MADISON POLICE DEPARTMENT****Applicant Must:**

1. Be at least 21 years of age and under 35 years of age at time of application deadline.
2. Possess a valid drivers license
3. Possess a high school diploma or G.E.D.
4. Pass a written examination, physical agility test, oral interview, polygraph test, psychological exam, background investigation, drug screening and through medical examination by Department physician.
5. Have 20/20 vision or at least 20/50 binocular vision without glasses.
6. Applications can be picked up at the Madison Police Department located at 615 Madison Avenue, Madison, Illinois Monday, April 26, 1999 through Friday, May 14, 1999 24 hours a day.
7. Orientation will be in the City Council Chambers located at the Madison City Hall, 615 Madison Avenue, Madison, Illinois on Saturday, May 22, 1999 at 10:00am.
8. Applications must be returned to the City of Madison Board of Police Commissioner's no later than 4:00pm, Friday June 14, 1999. Any applicants returning their applications after this deadline will be rejected as applicants.
9. At time of application, applicant must sign a roster and show proof of valid drivers license. At which time a complete list of qualifications will be provided.
10. The City of Madison, Illinois is an Equal Opportunity Employer.
11. The City of Madison encourages minorities and females to apply.

**BOARD OF POLICE AND FIRE COMMISSIONERS
CITY OF MADISON
MADISON, ILLINOIS**

320 HELP WANTED

